A Snapshot of Breast Cancer

Incidence and Mortality Rate Trends

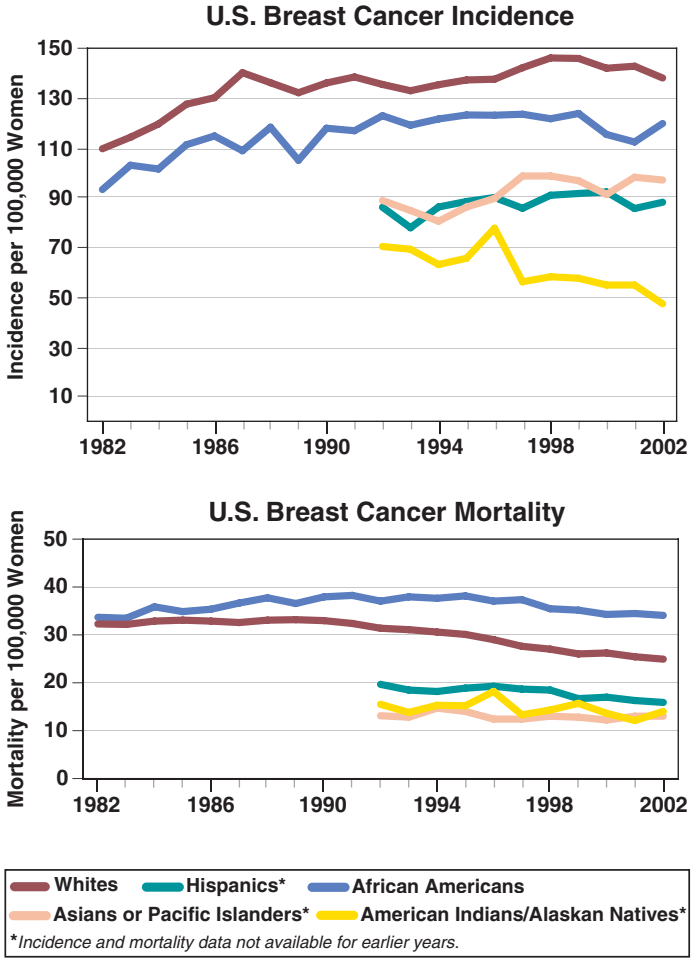
In the United States, breast cancer is the most common non-skin cancer and the second leading cause of cancer-related death in women. Each year, a small number of men also are diagnosed with or die from breast cancer. Although the breast cancer diagnosis rate has increased, there has been a steady drop in the overall breast cancer death rate since the early 1990s.

While the incidence rate is lower for African Americans than Whites, the mortality rate is higher. Women of other racial and ethnic groups have lower incidence and mortality rates.

It is estimated that approximately $8.1 billion* is spent in the United States each year on treatment of breast cancer.

*In 2004 dollars, as reported in Brown ML, Riley GF, Schussler N, and Etzioni RD. Estimating health care costs related to cancer treatment from SEER-Medicare data. Medical Care 2002 Aug; 40 (8 Suppl): IV-104-17.

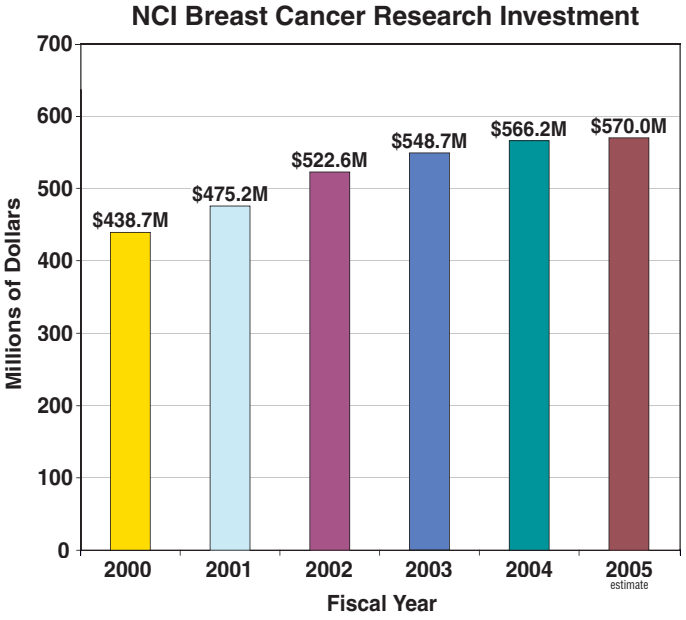
Source for incidence and mortality data: Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results (SEER) Program and the National Center for Health Statistics. Additional statistics and charts are available at: http://seer.cancer.gov/



Trends in NCI Funding for Breast Cancer Research

The National Cancer Institute's (NCI's) investment in breast cancer research has increased from $438.7 million in fiscal year 2000 to an estimated $570.0 million in fiscal year 2005.

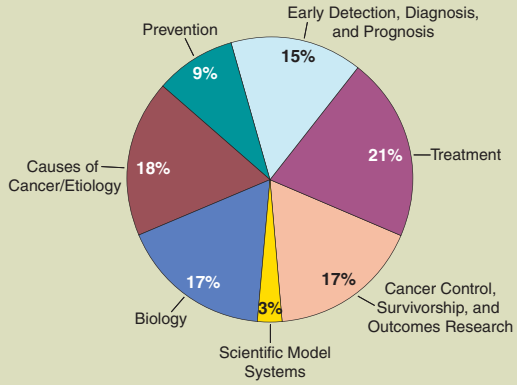
Source: NCI Financial Management Branch
http://www3.cancer.gov/admin/fmb



Examples of NCI Research Initiatives Relevant to Breast Cancer

- Ten breast cancer-specific **Specialized Programs of Research Excellence (SPOREs)** are moving results from the laboratory to the clinical setting. http://spores.nci.nih.gov/current/breast/breast.html
- The **Cooperative Breast Cancer Tissue Resource (CBCTR)** and the **Cancer Family Registry for Breast Cancer Studies** collect human tissue specimens and associated clinical and epidemiologic data for use by breast cancer researchers. http://www.cancerdiagnosis.nci.nih.gov/specimens/finding.html
- **Aging Women and Breast Cancer** supports research on the unique problems of older women with breast cancer. This population represents half the new cases of breast cancer and two-thirds of the deaths. http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-00-001.html
- **Centers for Excellence in Cancer Communication Research** aim to increase the use of cancer communication tools by the public, patients, survivors, and health professionals. Projects include the development of decision aids concerning tamoxifen use among women at high risk for breast cancer and a controlled trial to examine whether breast cancer patient outcomes improve with the addition of information and support services. http://cancercontrol.cancer.gov/hcirb/ceccr/
- The **Breast Cancer Surveillance Consortium (BCSC)** supports studies examining breast cancer screening practices and their relationship to stage at diagnosis, survival, and mortality. The recent report "Evaluating Screening Performance in Practice" describes the unique accomplishments of the BCSC. http://breastscreening.cancer.gov

NCI Breast Cancer Research Portfolio



Percentage of Total Dollars by Scientific Area
Fiscal Year 2004

* Data on training grants are not included in this figure. A description of the relevant research projects can be found at the NCI Cancer Research Portfolio website at http://researchportfolio.cancer.gov.

- NCI's new **Integrative Cancer Biology Program** focuses on the development of data and computational tools to achieve an in-depth understanding of cell signaling pathways that are central to control of cell proliferation and the oncogenic process. One project is making use of detailed datasets to inform predictive models of breast cancer recurrence. http://dcb.nci.nih.gov/branchdetail.cfm?branch=1
- The **Breast Cancer Progress Report** documents trends in the breast cancer research portfolio from 1998 to 2003. Multiple measures of progress are presented at varying levels of specificity. http://planning.cancer.gov/evaluation/reports.shtml
- The **Breast Cancer Home Page** directs visitors to up-to-date information on breast cancer treatment, prevention, genetics, causes, screening, testing, and other topics. http://www.cancer.gov/breast

Selected Opportunities for Advancement of Breast Cancer Research

- Achieve a more complete understanding of the biology of the mammary gland at each stage of normal development.
- Build an interactive and optimally coordinated clinical trials system to prioritize and accelerate the development of translational, prevention, and therapy interventions for breast cancer. Enhance minority participation in clinical trials and improve reimbursement of clinical trials health care costs by insurers.
- Embrace patient and survivor needs and concerns by increasing efforts to improve quality of life across the full cancer continuum, from risk assessment to treatment at the end of life.